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**ent Ads. Cent a Word.** 

# From

By GEORGE BARR M'CUTCHEON

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CALIBUTES "By heaven," he muttered, strangely vexed with her, "I fancy she means it She's bent on showing me my place But she might have come down and wished me good luck. That was little enough for her to do. Ah, well!" be sighed, putting it away from him.

nue near the gate a slender young woman in a green and white gown arose from a seat in the shade and stepped a pace forward, opening her parasol quite leisurely as he quickened his steps. Her eyes gleamed brightly, and she was breathing as one who has run

As he turned into the tree lined ave

"You are determined to go down there among those men?" she demanded, the smile suddenly giving way to a look of disapproval. She ignored his hand.

"Certainly," he said after the mo ment of bewilderment. "Why not? I -I thought you had made up your mind to let me go without a-a word for good luck." She found great difficulty in meeting the wistful look in his eyes. "You are good to come down here to say goodby. We're almost strangers again."

"I did not come down to say goodby," she said, her lips trembling ever so

"I don't understand," he said. "I am going with you into the townas a witness," she said, and her face went pale at the thought of it. "Genevra," he cried, "you-you would

"Why not, Mr. Chase?" She tried to speak calmly, but she was trembling. After all, she was a slender, helpless girl-not an amason! "I saw and heard everything. They won't believe you unsupported. They won't harm me. If I swear to them that what you

Her hand was on his arm now, trembling, eager, yet charged with fear at the prospect ahead of her. He clasped the little hand in his and quickly lifted

"I'm happy again!" he cried. "It's all right with me now." She withdrew her hand on the instant.

"No, no! It isn't that," she said, her eyes narrowing. "Don't misinterpre coming here to say that I will go It isn't because—no, it isn't that!"

"I was unbappy because you had for-saken me," he said gently. "You are brave—you are wonderful! But I can't dom. Rasula has promised to kill all will happen if they find him guilty. Goodby, dear one. I'll come backsurely I'll come back. Thank you for nding me away happy." "Won't you let me go with you?" she

asked after a long, penetrating look into his eyes. "I would not take you among them for all the world. You forget. Neither

of us would come back." "Neither of us?" she said slowly. "I wouldn't come back without you." be said quietly, earnestly. She understood. "Goodby! Don't worry about

me. I am in no danger.' "Goodby," she said, the princess once more. "I shall pray for you with all my soul." She gave him her hand. It was cold and lifeless. He pressed it warmly and went quickly away, leaving her standing there in the still shade of the satinwoods, looking after him with eyes that grew wider and wider with the tears that welled up

from behind. Hours went by-slow, tortuous hours in which the souls of those who watched and waited for his return

were tried to the utmost. Once there came to the ears of the watchers on the mountain side the sound of distant shouts, later the brief rattle of firearms. The blood of every one turned cold with apprehension. Every voice was stilled, every eye wide with dread. Neenah screamed as she fied across the terrace toward the drawbridge, where Selim stood as mo-

tionless at a statue.

Luncheon time passed, and again, as if drawn by a magnet, the entire household made its way to the front of

the chateau. He forgot the deference due his betters and unceremonlously dashed off toward the gates, followed by Neenah,

who seemed possessed of wings. Chase was returning! They saw him coming up the drive, his hat to his hand, his white umbrella raised above his head. The eager, joyous watchers saw him greet Selim and his fluttering wife. They saw Selim fall upon his knees, and they felt the

tears rushing to their own eyes.

"Hurray!" shouted little Mr. Saunders in his excitement. Bowles and the three clarks joined him in the ex-hibition. The rincess was conscious of the fact that at least five or six pairs of eyes were watching her face. She closed her lips and compelled her eyelids to obey the dictates of a reentful heart. She lowered them until they gave one the tappression of indolent curiosity, even indifference. All the while her incomprehensible heart was thumping with a rapture that knew no allegiance to royal conven-

A few minutes later he was among them, Ustening, with his cool, half satirical smile, to their protestations of

joy and relief. "Nonsense." joy and relier.

"Nonsense," he said in his most deprecating voice, taking a seat beside the princess on the railing and fanning himself laxily with his hat, to the mortification of his body servant, who a huge palm leaf in vigorous



adulation. "It was nothing. Just be ing a witness, that's all. You'll find how easy it is when you get back to London and have to testify in the Skuggs will contest. Tell the truth, that's all." The princess was now looking at his brown face with eyes over which she had lost control. "Oh, by the bye," he said, as if struck by a sudden thought, "it is my painful duty to announce to the Mesdames von Blitz that they are widows."

There was a dead silence. The three vomen stared up at him, uncompre

"Yes," he went on solemnly, "Jacob no more. He was found guilty by his judges and executed with com mendable haste and precision. He took



The princess was followed by her

his medicine bravely-twelve leader pills administered by as many skillful surgeons. But it is vet too early to congratulate yourselves on your free-"They shot him?" demanded Deppingham when he had finished.

"Admirably. By Jove, those fellows can shoot! They accepted my word against his-which is most gratifying to my pride. One other man testified against him-a chap who saw him with the Boers not ten minutes before the attempt was made to rob the vaults. Rasula appeared as counsel for the defense. Merely a matter of form. He knew that he was guilty. There was no talk of a new trial; no appeal to the ers will not." supreme court, Britt; no expense to the ommunity."

He avas as unconcerned about it as if discussing the most trivial happening of the day. Von Blitz lived not ter minutes after sentence was passed.

"As to their intentions toward us," said Chase, "they are firm in their de-termination that no one shall leave the chateau alive. Rasula was quite frank with me. He is a cool devil. He calmly notified me that we will all be dead inside of two weeks. No ships will put in here so long as the plague exists. I asked him how we were to dle, and he smiled as though he was holding something back as a surprise for us. He came as near to laughing as I've ever seen him when I asked him if he'd forgotten my warships Why don't you have them here? he asked. 'We're not ready.' said I. 'The six months are not up for nine days yet.' I also made the interesting discovery that suits have already been brought in England to break the will

on the grounds of insanity." "But what good will that do us if we are to die here?" exclaimed Bobby Browne.

"None whatsoever," said Chase calm-"You must admit, however, that you exhibited signs of hereditary insanity by coming here in the first place. I'm beginning to believe that there's a streak of it in my family

"And you - you saw him killed? asked the princess in an awed voice, low and full of horror.

"Yes. I could not avoid it." "They killed him on your-on your". She could not complete the sentence but shuddered expressively.

"Yes. He deserved death, princess I am more or less like the Moslem in one respect. I might excuse a thief or a murderer, but I have no pity for a traitor."

the same awed voice, involuntarily drawing away from him. "Yes." he said, "and you would have seen him killed, too. if you had gone

"You saw him killed?" she said in

down with me to ap r against him.' She looked up quickly and then thanked him almost in a whisper. CHAPTER XXVI.

lord," said Saunders the next day, appearing before his lordship after an agitated hour of preparation, "it's come to a point where something's got to be done." He got that far and then burned quite purple. His collar seemed

to be choking him. "If what Mr. Chare save is true, we've got a preclous short time to live. Well, we've -we've concluded to get all we can out of the time that's left, my lord. So I've come to ask if it will be all right with you and her ladyship, sir. We don't want to do anything that would seem forward and out of place,

"It's very considerate of you, Saunders, but what the devil are you talking about?

"Miss-Miss Pelham and I have de cided to get-er-get married before it

Deppingham stared hard for a mo ment and then grinned broadly. "You mean before you die?"

"That's it exactly, my lord. Haw, haw! It would be a bit late, wouldn't it, if we waited till afterward. Haw, haw! Splendid! So I have come to ask if you think it will interfere with your arrangements if-if we should be married tonight?"

"I'm sure, Saunders, that it won" discommode me in the least," said his lordship genially. "By all means, Saunders, let it be tonight, for tomorrow we may die." "Will you kindly speak to her lady-

"Gladly. And I'll take it as an honor if you will permit me to give away the bride."

"Thank you, my lord," cried Saunders, his face beaming. His lordship shook hands with him, whereupon hi cup of happiness overflowed, notwithstanding the fact that his honeymoon was likely to be of scarcely any du-

The wedding took place that night in the little chapel. Chase deliberately took possession of the princess after the hollow wedding supper had come to an end. Her mood had changed Now she was quite at ease with him The taunting gleam in her eyes pre-saged evil moments for his peace of

"I'm inspired." he said to her. " wedding always inspires me."

"It's very strange that you've never married," she retorted. She was striding freely by his side, confident in her power to resist sentiment with mock-

"Will you be my wife?" he asked abruptly. She caught her breath be-fore laughing tolerantly and then looked into his eyes with a tantalizing in-

"By no means," she responded. "I am not oppressed by the same views that actuated Miss Pelham. You see Mr. Chase, I am quite confident that we are not to die in two weeks."

"I could almost wish that we could die in that time," he said. "How very diabolical!"

"It may seem odd to you, but I'd rather see you dead than married to Prince Karl." She was silent. He went on, "Would you consent to be my wife if you felt in your heart that we should never leave this island?" "I think I shall go in, Mr. Chase," she said, with a warning shake of her

"Don't, please! I'm not asking you to marry me if we should leave the island. You must give me credit for

that," he argued whimsically. "Ab, I see," she said, apparently very much relieved. "You want me only with the understanding that death should be quite close at hand to relieve you. And if I were to become your wife, here and now, and we should be taken from this dreadful place-what then?"

"You probably would have to go through a long and miserable career as plain Goodwife Chase," he ex-

plained. "If it will make you any happier," she said, with a smile in which there lurked a touch of mischievous triumpl "I can say that I might consent to marry you if I were not so positive that I will leave the island soon. You seem to forget that my uncle's yachi is to call here, even though your cruis

"I'll risk even that," he maintained stoutly She stopped suddenly, her hand upor

his arm. "Do you really love me?" she do manded earnestly.

"With all my soul, I swear to you, he replied, staggered by the abrupt change in her manner.

"Then don't make it any harder for me," she said. "You know that I could not do what you ask. Please, please she went on, with a strange firmness in her voice. "It would require centuries to make me force! the transfer of the transfer princess, just as centuries were taker up in creating me what I am. I am no better than you, dear, but-but-you understand?" She said it so pleading ly, so hopelessly, that he understood what it was that she could not say to him. "We seldom, if ever, marry the men whom Ged has made for us to love.

He lifted her bands to his breast and held them there. "If you will just go on loving me I'll some day make you forget you're a princess." She smiled and shook her head. Her hair gleamed red and bronze in the kindly light; a soft permme came up to his nostrils.

The next day three of the native ervants became violently ill, seized by the most appalling convulsions. first a thrill of horror ran through the chateau. The plague—the plague in reality!

But these fears were quickly dissi pated. The sufferers soon began to mend. By nightfall they were fairly well recovered. The mysterious seizure however, was unexplained. Chase alone divined the cause. Poison! He was sure of it! But who the poisoner?

(To be Continued.)

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